

Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1 (currently amended): An improved vehicle suspension system in which a conventional suspension system comprises an upper and a lower suspension arm, an upper and lower ball joint, each comprising a spindle having included tapered openings whereby the improvement comprises the steps of :

Detaching the spindle from the upper and lower ball joint;

Detaching the upper and lower ball joints from the upper and lower suspension arms;

Installing a [Heim] Hime joint including an annular shaped socket encasing a freely movable ball shaped member having an included opening therein into the location previously occupied by the ball joint attached to the upper and lower suspension arm;

Installing an upper and a lower tapered insert into the included opening of the ball shaped member and securing the upper and lower inserts by fastening means;

Installing the tapered lower insert into the upper and lower included tapered openings of the spindles thereby enhancing the vertical and horizontal travel of the suspension system.

Claim 2 (currently amended): An improved vehicle suspension system in which a conventional suspension system comprises an upper and a lower suspension arm, an upper and lower ball joint, each comprising a spindle having included tapered openings whereby the improvement comprises the steps of :

Detaching the spindle from the upper and lower ball joint;

Detaching the upper and lower ball joints from the upper and lower suspension arms;

Installing a [Heim] Hime joint including an annular shaped socket encasing a freely movable ball shaped member having an included opening therein into the location previously occupied by the ball joint attached to the upper and lower suspension arm;

Installing an upper and a lower tapered insert into the included opening of the ball shaped member and securing the upper and lower inserts with a bolt that passes through the upper and lower tapered inserts;

Installing the tapered lower insert into the upper and lower included tapered openings of the spindles thereby enhancing the vertical and horizontal travel of the suspension system.

Claim 3 (Cancelled):

Claim 4 (previously presented): An improved vehicle suspension system in which a conventional suspension system comprises an upper and a lower suspension arm, an upper and lower ball joint, each comprising a spindle having included tapered openings whereby the improvement comprises the steps of:

Detaching the spindle from the upper and lower ball joint;

Detaching the upper and lower ball joints from the upper and lower suspension arms;

Installing a Hime joint including an annular shaped socket encasing a freely movable ball shaped member having an included opening therein into the location previously occupied by the ball joint attached to the upper and lower suspension arm thereby enhancing the vertical and horizontal travel of the suspension system.

Amendments to the Abstract

Please replace the abstract with the following amended abstract:

An improved vehicle suspension system in which the conventional upper and lower ball joints, each having a spindle, are replaced by a [Heim] Hime joint which includes a tapered insert that is dimensioned to accommodate the spindle to which it is attached. The resulting suspension system has enhanced vertical and horizontal travel.